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view of society, however, thus given bears a striking likeness in many of its traits to more modern customs and recalls Mommsen's famous comparison of the Gauls and the Irish. The funeral customs, including the "wake" and its lively celebrations, the love of athletic contests, the personal vanity, the fondness for fighting, personal devotion to the leader, the attendance on fairs, hospitality, wit and geniality, the love of poetry and music, are traits that have all come down to the present time. Even the addiction to strong waters characterized the people in ancient times, though their chief reliance for intoxication was upon ale made from barley. The great national beverage of modern days seems to have been unknown until near the close of the Middle Ages, the first mention of it being found in the Annals of the year 1405, under which date occurs the significant entry that one, Mac-Rannal, died from an overdose of *uisge*.

The main traits of this early society are clearly and convincingly portrayed, and, in spite of certain minor defects of treatment, such as the too frequent introduction—for the non-Celtic reader—of old Irish terms, and the unnecessary comparisons with Greek and Roman customs, it is the most instructive sketch of ancient Irish society that has yet appeared.

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**Lucas, C. P.** *The Canadian War of 1812.* Pp. 270. Price, \$3.00. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1906.

This book is written from the standpoint of an English imperialist. His interest in the war comes from the fact that it led to the rise of Canadian patriotism, and so was a factor in preventing the absorption of Canada by the United States. A distinctive feature of the book is the defense of the burning of Washington, on the ground of retaliation for the burning of York, England being made to pose as the avenger of Canada. At the same time the author preserves an unusually just balance in judging disputed points, and writes nothing that should wound the sense or sensibilities of Americans. This result is partly obtained by a limitation of the discussion of the causes of the war to four pages, and by the treatment of the particularly sore point, the employment of Indians, along modern imperialistic lines calculated to appeal to both countries (pp. 80-82). Perhaps the same view of the amenities of the case caused the author to limit his mention of the western causes of the war to a single reference (p. 284).

The title of the book naturally prepares one for the slight attention given to naval affairs; it nevertheless becomes obvious that this is not due to any lack of knowledge or appreciation of the importance of sea power. The main portion of the book is a straightforward account of the land operations of the war, written almost wholly from official dispatches, which have been very thoroughly examined. That the results do not present much that is novel is due rather to the diligence of Mr. Lucas's predecessors than to his own lack of zeal. The few errors, as the reference to Tecumseh's presence

at the battle of Tippecanoe (p. 17), do not bear directly upon the narrative. The narrative is compact, an enormous mass of fact being included, but it is probable that a person unfamiliar with the course of events might complain that the important facts were not sufficiently distinguished. On the other hand, one of the strongest points is the treatment of the petty frontier forays, and possibly the truest impression to be left on the mind is one of confusion.

Particularly good is the discussion of Hull's surrender and of the battle of Plattsburg. The book is very carefully gotten out and includes eight maps, six of which are beautifully reproduced from Melish's "Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States, including the British Possessions and Florida," etc., of 1813. The style is good scientific prose, and there is a fair index.

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**Reynolds, John S.** *Reconstruction in South Carolina, 1865-1877.* Pp. 522.

Price, \$2.00. Columbia, S. C.: The State Company.

The main body of this work is more a chronicle than a history. Written in the midst of the state archives, and first published in a Columbia (S. C.) newspaper in instalments, dealing with the successive periods in sequence of legislative sessions, the book gives full annals of legislation, party conventions and campaigns, and all military, riotous or conspiratory occurrences which tended to affect the course of politics. The book is heavily documented with extracts of laws, platforms, addresses, reports and resolutions, lists of members, record of yeas and nays, etc. These weigh upon the narrative and make the reading tedious, especially in the first half of the work. With the closing period of reconstruction, however, the author seems to reach the field in which his own memory is more active and his interest more lively. The state campaign of 1876, in the discussion of which South Carolinians in general take great pride, is admirably treated. By virtue of the author's abundant personal knowledge and his zest, and a broadening of the treatment, the narrative is here presented, not only convincingly, as always, by force of proofs adduced, but with a sustained interest for the reader. The book is concluded with a chapter summarizing the spoliations by the radical government and a brief chapter of "reviews and reflections," which presents a strong analysis of the policies, personal equations, contests and transitions in reconstruction politics. The book is written on the whole with poise. The terms used are sometimes too strong, but in general the epithets are moderate and proven by the context to be justified. Little attention is given to anything not directly connected with politics.

From the substance of the book the strongest impression gained by the reviewer is that of the conservatism, saneness and insight usually exercised by the guiding South Carolina Democrats of the period, as contrasted with the fatuousness of such of the Republicans as had purposes beyond the